

526 Rec'd PCT/PTO 26 APR 2000

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Mobile objects for locating, e.g., persons or inanimate objects, are provided with a data carrier that determines the absolute position using a position-determining system such as e.g., GPS. To optimize the exchanging of data between an application that requires the location of the data carrier and the object itself, the absolute position of the objects is transmitted to an information unit when the data carrier is initialized. The information unit translates the coordinates using a digitized map or a plan divided into areas so that the object can be allocated to a corresponding area. This data is stored in the information unit. The boundaries of the area in which the object is located are transmitted to the data carrier and if the object changes its position, the data carrier itself can determine whether the object has left an area. If the current position of the data carrier no longer matches the area information, the data carrier reports its position to the information unit again. If an application requests the position of a data carrier, the information unit transmits the data carrier area information that has been stored to the application.